Serial No.: 10/053,469 Group Art Unit: 1744 Examiner: Laura C. Cole

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace Paragraph 29 on beginning on page 10 and ending on page 11 with the following new Paragraph 29:

An alternative embodiment of the present invention which is not illustrated would provide pressure control to attempt to simplify having the cleaning member contacting the ferrule end surface with a pressure within a particular range. This pressure control could be provided by a resilient member 15, shown in Figure 2, such as a mechanical spring or a hydraulic spring supporting the cleaning rod. In this manner, as the hand held device is put into position, the user would push the cleaning member into engagement with the ferrule end surface until the member started to retract against the spring force. The user would not push the member hard enough for it to reach the spring stop. There would thus be a range of movement where the force on the ferrule surface from the cleaning member would be sufficient to initially deform the spring but not so much as to push past the spring's capacity. This could help insure that sufficient force was supplied, but not too much force was supplied, potentially improving control. While this would be particularly useful for the hand held device without a mating connector, it could also provide advantages in combination with a mating connector or even on the dummy card version of the device. The preferred ranges of force could be determined experimentally for different cleaning environments and different cleaning media. Some consideration could be given to spring loading done on the connectors themselves currently in the art as a guideline for spring construction and loads for cleaning members. Those of skill in the art could design the springs to meet the appropriate parameters for initial deflection and peak force.